# Kissinger Linked to Wiretaps

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Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former top FBI official Cartha D. DeLoach have said they considered a so-called national security wiretap program begun in 1969 to be under the control of then-Presidential aide Henry Kissinger.

The testimony appears to conflict with Secretary of State Kissinger's own version of his role in the wiretaps, which were approved by then-President Nixon as an attempt to halt alleged leaks of classified information.

Kissinger previously has said he did not initiate the taps, and that his role mainly was limited to approving certain names to be considered as subjects of the surveil- lances.

The testimony of DeLoach and Mitchell came in depositions filed in a law suit brought by former National Security Council aide Morton Halperin, whose home telephone was tapped for 21 months as part of the program.

Halperin claims the tap was illegal, and was used to spy on his political beliefs after he left the government. Kissinger's role in the taps program previously was aired on Capitol Hill in hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is scheduled to be questioned again by attorneys for Halperin in the pending suit.

Mitchell and DeLoach both indicated in their depositions that they considered the taps to be Kissinger's program, although it had Mr. Nixon's specific approval.

Mr. Nixon never mentioned a specific name for a tap, Mitchell said.

See WIRETAP, A6, Col. 1



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WIRETAPS, From A1

Q. (By Halperin attorney Walter B. Slocombe) "That is, your instructions from the President as you under- stood them was that Dr. Kissinger would provide names or a member of his staff would provide names for the FBI, and that when you received such a name you are under instruc- tions from the President to put on such a tap?

A. (By Mitchell) That is correct."

Mitchell then was shown a memorandum written to him in September, 1969, from then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that included a paragraph saying, "According to Col. Alexander Haig, Dr. Kissinger has now advised that he desires all such surveillances installed at his request discontinued except the ones with reference to Morton Halperin ..."

Slocombe asked the former attorney general about that memo:

Q. "Does the description in that paragraph of who controlled the continuance of these wiretaps correspond to your understanding at the time -- that is, that it was up to Dr. Kissinger to decide when the wiretap came off?

A. "I think I would have to answer the question the way you put it, yes. Dr. Kissinger, having initiated the taps, that it would be his determination as to when they came off.

During his questioning, DeLoach also was shown FBI documents indicating that Kissinger specifically and personally requested the FBI to conduct an investigation into alleged news leaks. He was asked if he remeered independently whether Kissinger himself had made the request and answered, "I don't recall that as a matter of fact, but the memorandum certainly would indicate that."

DeLoach then was shown a memo written by Hoover concerning the start of the leaks investigation in May, 1969, that included this statement from the late FBI direc- tor: "Dr. Kissinger said he appreciated this very much and he hoped I would follow it up as far as we can take it and they will destroy whoever did this if we can find him, no matter where he is."

DeLoach said he interpreted that memo as meaning "Dr. Kissinger was ordering, instructing the FBI and director Hoover, and the White House was instructing the FBI to continue the investigations."